

Amendments to the Claims

1-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently amended) A procedure process for producing spherical polymer particles with a narrow size distribution, i.e. with a CV of less than 35%, ~~preferably less than 20%~~, in the range between 5 and 100 μm by free radical polymerisation of vinyl monomers in water, ~~characterised in that which comprises performing~~ the polymerisation is performed as a one-step seed polymerisation wherein all of the monomer is added directly to the start particles which consist of a non-cross-linked polymer produced by a dispersion polymerisation which gives the start particles ~~such~~ a high swelling capacity ~~that wherein~~ they can absorb more than 5 times and preferably more than 20 times their own volume.

12. (Currently amended) A procedure process in accordance with claim 11, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the start particles absorb from 5 to 120, ~~preferably from 20 to 100~~, times their own volume of vinyl monomers or a mixture which contains vinyl monomers.

13. (Currently amended) A procedure process in accordance with claim 12, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the mixture which contains vinyl monomers contains one or more inert solvents which lead to the formation of porosity in the polymer particles.

14. (Currently amended) A procedure process in accordance with claim 13, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the mixture which contains vinyl monomers also contains a polymerisation initiator in addition to one or more inert solvents.

15. (Currently amended) A procedure process in accordance with claim 14, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the polymerisation initiator is added separately from the mixture which contains vinyl monomers.

16. (Currently amended) A procedure process in accordance with claim 11, characterised ~~in that~~ wherein the vinyl monomers or a mixture which contains vinyl monomers is finely divided into small emulsion droplets before they are swelled into start particles.

17. (Currently amended) A procedure process in accordance with claim 12, characterised ~~in that~~ wherein the vinyl monomers or a mixture which contains vinyl monomers is finely divided into small emulsion droplets before they are swelled into start particles.

18. (Currently amended) A procedure process in accordance with claim 13, characterised ~~in that~~ wherein the vinyl monomers or a mixture which contains vinyl monomers is finely divided into small emulsion droplets before they are swelled into start particles.

19. (Currently amended) A procedure process in accordance with claim 14, characterised ~~in that~~ wherein the vinyl monomers or a mixture which contains vinyl monomers is finely divided into small emulsion droplets before they are swelled into start particles.

20. (Currently amended) A procedure process in accordance with claim 15, characterised ~~in that~~ wherein the vinyl monomers or a mixture which contains vinyl monomers is finely divided into small emulsion droplets before they are swelled into start particles.

21. (Currently amended) Spherical polymer particles with a narrow size distribution, i.e. with a CV of less than 35%, ~~preferably less than 20%~~, in the range between 5 and 100 μm , characterised ~~in that they are~~ produced by the procedure process in accordance with claim 11.

22. (Currently amended) Spherical polymer particles with a narrow size distribution, i.e. with a CV of less than 35%, ~~preferably less than 20%~~, in the range between 5 and 100 μm , characterised ~~in that they are~~ produced by the procedure process in accordance with claim 12.

23. (Currently amended) Spherical polymer particles with a narrow size distribution, i.e. with a CV of less than 35%, ~~preferably less than 20%~~, in the range between 5 and 100 μm , ~~characterised in that they are~~ produced by the ~~procedure~~ process in accordance with claim 13.

24. (Currently amended) Spherical polymer particles with a narrow size distribution, i.e. with a CV of less than 35%, ~~preferably less than 20%~~, in the range between 5 and 100 μm , ~~characterised in that they are~~ produced by the ~~procedure~~ process in accordance with claim 14.

25. (Currently amended) Spherical polymer particles with a narrow size distribution, i.e. with a CV of less than 35%, ~~preferably less than 20%~~, in the range between 5 and 100 μm , ~~characterised in that they are~~ produced by the ~~procedure~~ process in accordance with claim 15.

26. (Currently amended) Polymer particles in accordance with claim 21, ~~characterised in that the porous structure in the particles has~~ having a very low content of pores with a diameter below 50 Å, i.e. less than 10%, ~~preferably less than 5%~~, of the total pore volume.

27. (Currently amended) Polymer particles in accordance with claim 21, ~~characterised in that the porous structure in the particles is~~ free from micropores with a diameter below 5 Å.

28. (Currently amended) Polymer particles in accordance with claim 26, ~~characterised in that the porous structure in the particles is~~ free from micropores with a diameter below 5 Å.

29. (Currently amended) Polymer particles in accordance with claim 21, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the size distribution of the polymer particles is always narrow ~~and preferably narrower than that of the start particles.~~

30. (Currently amended) Polymer particles in accordance with claim 26, characterised ~~in that~~ wherein the size distribution of the polymer particles is always narrow and preferably narrower ~~than that of the start particles.~~

31. (Currently amended) Polymer particles in accordance with claim 27, characterised ~~in that~~ wherein the size distribution of the polymer particles is always narrow and preferably narrower ~~than that of the start particles.~~

32. (New) A process in accordance with claim 11, wherein the CV is less than 20%.

33. (New) A process in accordance with claim 11, wherein the start particles can absorb more than 20 times their own volume.

34. (New) A process in accordance with claim 12, wherein the start particles absorb from 20 to 100 times their own volume of vinyl monomers or a mixture which contains vinyl monomers.

35. (New) Polymer particles in accordance with claim 21, wherein the CV is less than 20%.

36. (New) Polymer particles in accordance with claim 22, wherein the CV is less than 20%.

37. (New) Polymer particles in accordance with claim 23, wherein the CV is less than 20%.

38. (New) Polymer particles in accordance with claim 24, wherein the CV is less than 20%.

39. (New) Polymer particles in accordance with claim 25, wherein the CV is less than 20%.

40. (New) Polymer particles in accordance with claim 26, wherein the content of pores with a diameter below 50 Å is less than 5% of the total pore volume.

41. (New) Polymer particles in accordance with claim 29, wherein the size distribution of the polymer particles is narrower than that of the start particles.

42. (New) Polymer particles in accordance with claim 30, wherein the size distribution of the polymer particles is narrower than that of the start particles.

43. Polymer particles in accordance with claim 31, wherein the size distribution of the polymer particles is narrower than that of the start particles.